

Scenario 1 – Proper Use of Seal: Allied Professionals

Scenario:

An OALA member (with stamp) was asked to provide a fee proposal for services to a member of another profession for a public sector project.

The landscape architect provided a fee for full services including design, drawing preparation and construction review. The other professional then requested that the landscape architect provide sketches only for its scope of work, whereby the other professional's staff would undertake the drawing preparation and return the drawings to be stamped with the OALA member's seal.

It was assumed that the intent was to reduce the cost of fees paid to the landscape architect.

The landscape architect declined this arrangement and advised that this would be in contravention of the [OALA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice](#), Section 5.4 Duties to Profession and Members.

5.4.3 A Member with Seal shall use only the seal issued to the Member by the Association and in accordance with the Policy for Use of Seal in Professional Practice.

See Policy in [OALA Handbook Section 13: Use of Title and Seal Policies](#)

Note: The use of a seal serves as evidence that the OALA member who affixed the Digital Seal is a landscape architect in Ontario and that the document so sealed was prepared in its entirety under the personal supervision and direction of the member who affixed the Digital Seal.

The other professional then indicated that another landscape architect provides this service on a regular basis to his firm, and he would contact them for the project. He declined to provide the other landscape architect's name.

Discussion:

The OALA member was correct in the understanding that the other professional's request was in contravention of the Code of Ethics, with respect to the production and use of drawings, as well as the use of stamp. This would be a similar situation if a developer were to request that a landscape architect stamp a site plan for approval for a fee.

From the perspective of a business decision, lifetime liability, and risk; there could be impacts to the member, as well as to the profession.

The actions on the part of the “stamping” landscape architect demean the value of the landscape architectural profession and the services offered by its members.

Anticipated Actions:

- OALA member to inquire with the other professional as to who is stamping drawings for a fee.
- OALA to contact the other professional’s regulatory association with respect to this behaviour on the part of their member.
- OALA will advise that this is in contradiction of OALA’s Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice. This can be undertaken whether or not the name of other professional or OALA member are provided.